

REMARKS:

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application as of the filing of this Amendment. Of those, dependent claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24 are designated, in the present Office Action, as containing allowable subject matter and independent claim 26 is designated as being allowed. By this Amendment, dependent claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24 have been amended to independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claim in order to place these claims in condition for allowance. All remaining rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23, and 25 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Thus, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, 24, and 26 are pending and in condition for allowance.

The present Amendment is considered to be fully in compliance with the provisions set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.116 for making an amendment after final action. Specifically, the present Amendment is limited to canceling claims and amending claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24, by rewriting these claims in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, in compliance with the requirements set forth in the present Office Action for placing claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24 in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by two (2) from five (5) to seven (7). A Transmittal Letter is being filed herewith that includes an authorization for charging an excess claim fee of \$400.00 for the two additional independent claims to Deposit Account No. **500777**. The undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **500777**. If an extension of time is required for enabling this document to be timely, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time should be charged to Deposit Account No. **500777**.

Please link this application to Customer No. 38441 so that its status may be checked via the PAIR System.

Respectfully submitted,

11 APRIL 2005
Date


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